Thai SOLT I

Module 3 Lesson 7

Bargaining

At the end of this lesson, the students will be able to apply bargaining techniques. Under this Terminal Learning Objective, the students will be able to:

1. Bargain for merchandise. This task will include:

- Talk about prices of different merchandise
- Discuss acceptable bargaining techniques
- Negotiate the price in a store

Bartering is part of the everyday style of buying and selling in Thailand. The method is to offer a beginning price for an item and to work it down back and forth until a mutual agreement is reached and both parties are satisfied, but quite often the buyer decides to go somewhere else. Bartering is more common with the street vendors.

Tip of the Day

In Thailand, you should really be sure before you decide to buy anything because all sales are final. There are no refunds or exchanges especially when buying from a street vendor.

Lesson Scenario

A customer is buying fruit(s). She is successfully negotiating the prices with the merchant.

A: □□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
B: □□□□ □□ □□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□
A: □□□□□□□□□ □□ □□□□□□□□
B: □□□□ . . □□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□
A: □□□□□□□□□ □□□ □□□□□□
B: □□ □□□ □□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
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B: □□□□ . . □□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□
A: □□□ □□□□□□□□□

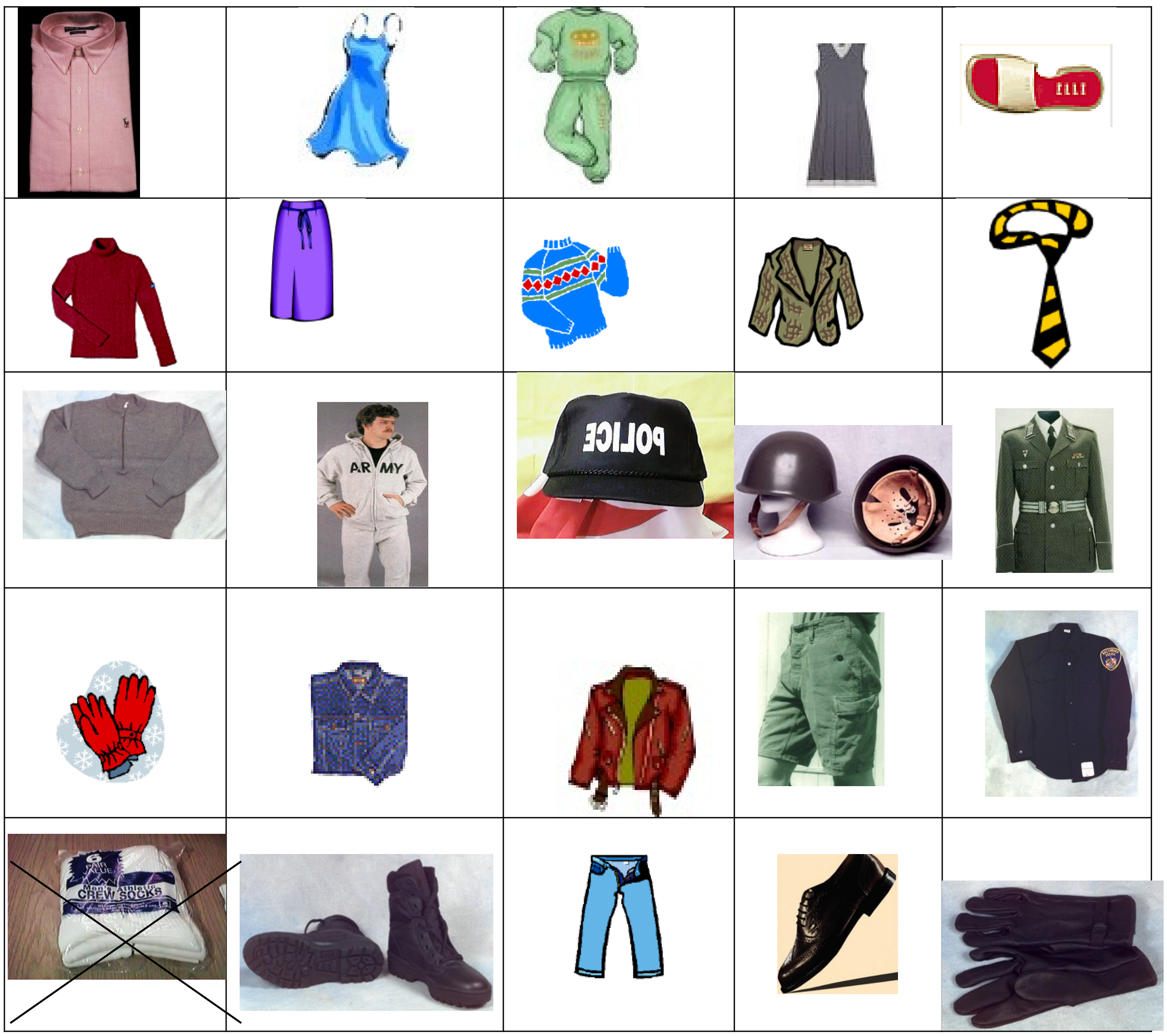
Exercise 1

The situation is that you are at an open-air market and you see some items that you like. Your partner will play the role of the vendor. Negotiate for the best deal that you can by acting out the scenario. Afterwards, change roles so that both partners can practice negotiating. Good Luck!

Exercise 2 (Pair Work)

Take turns naming the items with their colors in a random order. One student names an item and its color without pointing it out, the other crosses it out, and so on, until all items have been crossed out.

Example: □□□□□□□□□□□□



Exercise 3 (Pair Work)
Working with your partner as a team, review the transcript of the following conversation between two people and answer the questions.

A: [illegible] [illegible]

B: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

(1) What does speaker A suggest to speaker B?

(2) How many watermelons does speaker B want to buy?

(3) Select the items that are NOT included in speaker B's shopping list?
Watermelons, carrots, peaches, strawberries, potatoes, broccoli, cherries,
Apples, cabbages, cucumbers, celery, grapes, pumpkins, pears, onions, bananas, bell peppers, green onions, garlic, oranges.

Exercise 4
Listen as the instructor reads the following conversation between a merchant at a jewelry store and a customer, and answer the questions.

1. What did the customer want to buy?

2. What was the original price?

3. What was the final price?

Tip of the Day

The big stores have become more popular in Thailand. Consequently, the chances to bargain are becoming less frequent.

Exercise 5 (Pair Work)

Working with your partner as a team, review the transcript of the following conversation between a mother and her son and find out which stores they will visit. Afterwards, complete the task.

A: [illegible]

B: [illegible]

A: [illegible]

(1) Write the store names in the left-hand column in the order they are going to visit. Write in Thai in the right-hand column the items they are going to buy from each store.

a.		
b.		
c.		

d.		

(2) What does the mother plan to do on the way back home?

Exercise 6

The following are advertisements. What are they selling and what are the prices?

A.

[illegible] 300 [illegible]…[illegible]

[illegible] pied [illegible] 300 [illegible]
[illegible]. 2 [illegible]
[illegible] 016345136

B.

[illegible]…[illegible] 1500 [illegible]

[illegible]1 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

C.

[illegible] 20 %

[illegible] 20 %
[illegible] Sony WEGA 21 [illegible] 14,000 [illegible] 11,200 [illegible]
[illegible] 01-8541234 [illegible]

D.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 10 [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]

E.

[illegible] [illegible]-[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].02-3320545-6

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]-[illegible] [illegible] ISO 9002 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Promotion [illegible]-31 [illegible].[illegible].. 2544 [illegible] [illegible] 200 [illegible] 100 [illegible] !![illegible] 300 [illegible] 200 [illegible] !! [illegible] 500 [illegible] 500 [illegible] !!

F.

[illegible]([illegible]) [illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible] 45.- [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] ,[illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 01-6129261 [illegible]

G.

[illegible]"[illegible]" [illegible] 12 [illegible] !

[illegible] 12 [illegible] 02-9577604(PCT) / 9301 490 : 115 [illegible]

H.

[illegible]! [illegible] fendi [illegible]

[illegible] fendi [illegible] shop [illegible] 9800 [illegible] 4000 [illegible] 01-8433442

I.

[illegible]

[illegible]
328-8781-2, 01-7526998

1. . . . [illegible]

a. If it is used in bargaining, it usually means " Could you make it + (your offered price)?" after being offered the price by a merchant.

b. In other situations, it often indicates indifference. It carries the meaning of "Go ahead and do such and such, it would all be the same to me"

Example:

[illegible] = Could you make it 200 baht?

[illegible] = Could you make it 2 for 700 baht?

[illegible] = You go ahead and go.

[illegible] = You go ahead and order.

Exercise 1

Translate the following dialogues into Thai.

1. A: How much is this shirt?
   B: 370 baht?
   A: Could you make it 250 baht?

2. A: What would you like to order?
   B: I don't know. Why don't you go ahead and order?

2. [illegible]

It means "how much?" when asking for the price of merchandise .

Example:

[illegible] = How much for shrimps?

[illegible] = How much for oranges?

[illegible] = How much for vegetables?

Exercise 2
Translate the following into Thai.

1. How much for these eggs?
2. How much for apples?
3. How much for tomatoes?

3. ([illegible])[illegible] . . . [illegible] . . .[illegible]
It means (If you) want (me) to . . . (you) then . . .

Example:

[illegible] = If you want me to buy, then tell me.

[illegible] = If you want me to do it, then go buy (it).

[illegible] = If you want me to read, then give it to me.

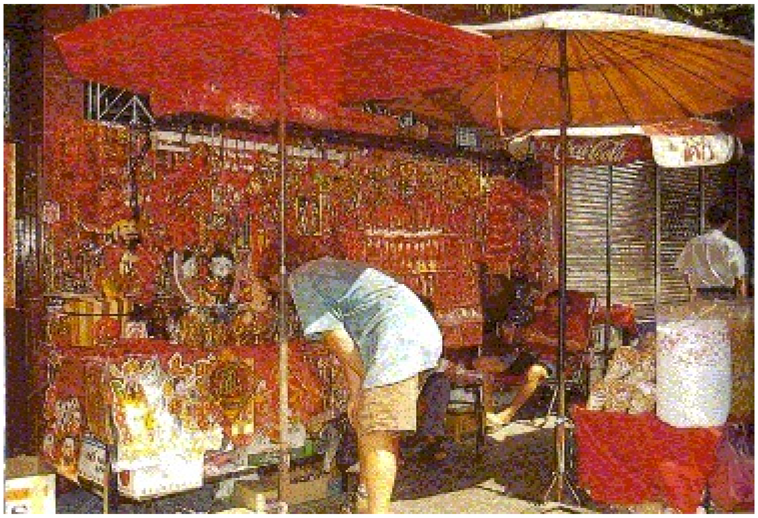
Exercise 3
Translate the following sentences into Thai.

1. If you want me to go with you, then tell me.
2. If you want me to write, then bring a paper.
3. If you want me to drive, then give me the key.

Vocabulary Module 3 Lesson 7

[illegible]	see grammar notes
[illegible]	game
[illegible]	on the way back
[illegible]	firm (price)
[illegible]	retail
[illegible]	wholesale
[illegible]	how much
[illegible]	convenience
[illegible]	canned goods
[illegible]	ingredients
[illegible]	DVD player
[illegible]	to write down, to list
[illegible] . . .[illegible] . . .[illegible]	see grammar notes
[illegible]	to sell
[illegible]	to taste
[illegible]	easy to use
[illegible]	to bargain
[illegible]	to decide
[illegible]	cheap
[illegible]	even (in a round number)
[illegible]	various kinds
[illegible]	service
[illegible]	a unit of weight equivalent to 15 grams
[illegible]	meeting
[illegible]	expensive
[illegible]	tourist town
[illegible]	brand
[illegible]	full price
[illegible]	store that sells dry goods
[illegible]	to take care
[illegible]	in the future
[illegible]	teenager
[illegible]	necklace
[illegible]	to inquire
[illegible]	as little as
[illegible]	able to
[illegible]	goods, merchandise

[illegible]	lady
[illegible]	classify for necklace
[illegible], [illegible]	department store
[illegible]	to pick . . . up
[illegible]	suitable
[illegible]	such as
[illegible]	just
[illegible]	equipment



Bargaining is an old tradition in Thailand and is still done at markets, shops, and vendors throughout the kingdom. While shopping, you can get a fascinating look at Thai life as well as find great bargains on gifts and souvenirs. Bargaining is easy and fun. If you haven't bargained before, the first rule is to relax, don't take it so seriously, and enjoy yourself. To make the most out of bargaining, here are some suggestions.

Shop around casually first to get a price range for items you would like to buy. In shops where a lot of foreign tourists frequent, prices might begin at nearly double than what they will eventually be willing to part with, but not all shops go so high. Browsing around will help you get a good idea of what the item will go for. Don't judge an item's value by your currency or what you think you might pay back home. Also, remember that bargaining shouldn't be approached as a competitive act, and you shouldn't get emotionally involved in the process. In bargaining, friendliness and humor count in your favor, but if you give yourself away by loving this item so dearly that you have to have it now, you'll not be able to bargain much. Keep in mind that merchants won't take a loss, so don't worry about starting too low-they'll just heartily protest at such craziness. The merchants' counteroffer will come down a bit, and your offer can be adjusted a

bit. Eventually, you'll find a price at which you're both happy-your happiness with the purchase and the merchant's profit.

We don't bargain at restaurants, supermarkets, or department stores. Expensive items such as gems and jewelry, precious metals, electronic and camera equipment, vehicles, furniture, art and antique items can usually be bargained even at some department stores. Be wary of touts who offer "special" deals too good to be true, because they always are.

Activity 1 (Pair Work)
Role-play the following dialogues.

1. At a department store. A: customer, B: salesperson

A: Greet the salesperson.
B: Greet the customer.
A: Explain what you are looking for.
B: Ask what is his size.
A: State your size.
B: Ask what color he would like.
A: Choose a color.
B: Show an item and ask if he would like to try it on.
A: Say yes and ask for the price.
B: Quote a high price.
A: Say it is too expensive. Thank the salesperson and leave.

2. At a clothing issue point. A: recruit, B: supply sergeant

A: Greet the sergeant.
B: Greet the soldier. Ask what he needs.
A: Name several uniform items.
B: Ask for his size.
A: Specify the size for each item you are getting.
B: Name each item you are bringing out.
A: Try on the first item and complain about the fit.
B: Say that you don't have his size.

A: Tell the sergeant that you will take the item but that you don't like the color.
B: Say that camouflage is the color one wears around here and terminate the conversation

Activity 2 (Group Work)
The class will be divided into two groups of students. Working together as a group, the students will review the document. The words in the left-hand column are different types of stores. In the right-hand column, you will find some items that are sold in stores. However, one in each group of four is not likely to be sold in that particular store. Select the inappropriate item. Compare your answers with the other group.

[illegible]	[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Activity 3 (Pair Work)
One of you is a storeowner of a small grocery store and the other is a customer who is bargaining for better grocery prices. Ask and answer questions about the prices of different grocery items trying to bargain for a better deal.

Activity 4 (Pair Work)
Reverse the roles you played in the previous activity. One of you is an owner of a store for clothes and the other is a customer who wants to buy some clothes. The customer is bargaining for better prices. Discuss with each other the prices of the clothes the customer wants to buy.

Activity 5
Form a circle. One of the students will play the role of a car salesman. The rest of the class will be buying a car from him and bring his price down. Take turns in using the expressions for bargaining.

Example:
- The instructor will start the game by asking: □□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□
- Salesman: □□□,□□□ □□□
- Next, each student responds trying to beat the price down.
- The game ends when all the students have responded to the salesman using one of the bargaining expressions.

Activity 6
Listen as the instructor reads the following conversation and answer the questions below.

1. What did the customer want to buy (including size and color)?

2. Did the merchant have what the customer wanted?

3. What was the original price?

4. What was the final price?

Activity 1 (Pair Work)
Look around your classroom for classroom objects and tell each other the cost of different items in Thai currency.

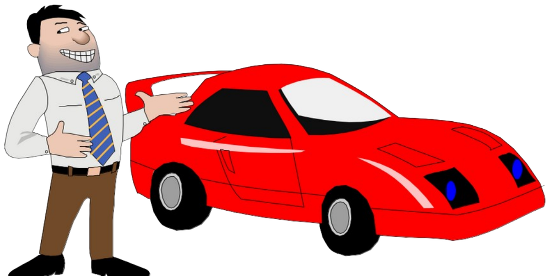
Activity 2
Listen as the instructor reads the following short conversations and identify the store in which each takes place.

Activity 3
Listen to the instructor read a conversation between a customer and a merchant. You will probably not understand everything in detail; listen for the general context. Answer the questions below.

1. What was bought?	
2. For whom?	
3. The original price?	
4. The final price?	

Activity 4

Write down what each of the men is saying about their products. Write at least three sentences. Use your dictionary to make their announcements more interesting. The instructor will check all the assignments in the class and choose which student wrote the most interesting announcement.



Activity 5 (Pair Work)
Student A. You want to buy a pair of pants, a T-shirt, and shoes. You only have 700 baht. Go to a store and explain the items, colors, and size you need, ask to try them on. Then bargain on the price of the items you want to buy.

200 baht

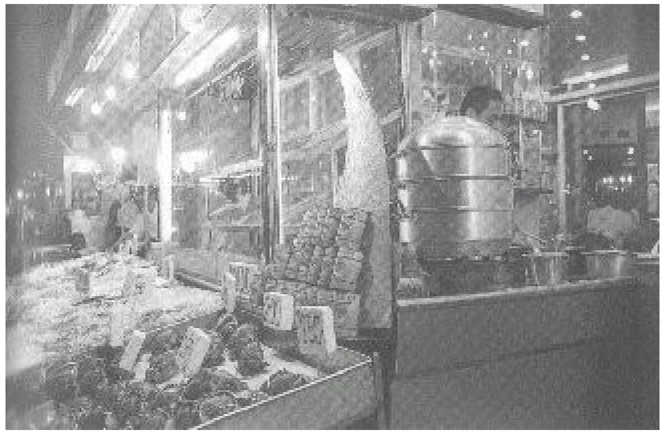
175 baht

350 baht

Student B. You are a clothes merchant. You are currently advertising for some specials. Help the customer.

Activity 6
Bring an object to class that will lend itself to bartering. You will come prepared to tell the class how you were able to buy it for a bargain. At the end of the presentations all of the objects will go on a table and students will work in groups playing the roles of vendor and customer, bartering for them, until an agreement is reached. (The class can decide if they want to barter for real without actually paying for the objects after the role-playing)

Activity 7 (Pair Work)
The housing market. You are working for a Thai-American company. Finally, you found a house you like. Its photograph is given below. The price, however, is over-inflated. Talk to a real estate agent and try to bring the price down. Your partner will play the role of the real estate agent. At the end of the deal tell the class how much you paid. (Note: the current prices in the real estate are comparable to American prices).



Activity 1
Read the following ads from a Thai newspaper. Assume that you are interested in buying a business. Your preference is a food-related business. Which ad(s) would you choose?
State your reason.

A.

[illegible]-[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible] - [illegible]

B.

[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible],[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible] - [illegible]

C.

[illegible] - [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

๘๐ ที่ มีลูกค้า
เข้าปาร์ตี้และประชุมตลอด เปิดมา ๘ ปี อุปกรณ์พร้อมอยู่หลุยเซียน่า
ใกล้ค่ายทหารบก จะขายให้ผู้มีความสามารถทำต่อ
เจ้าของช่วย
ไฟแนนซ์ให้ โทร. (๓๑๘) ๒๓๙ - ๒๖๑๒ ขอพูดกับ"วันชัย"

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Activity 2
Now look at the ads again and imagine that you are going to buy one of those businesses. Prepare a short dialogue for bargaining using the vocabulary list from this lesson. Write it down and hand it in to the teacher. Prepare to use it in class. Role-play the situation with your partner.

Activity 3
Listen to the advertisement and fill out the following table below.

What kind of business is being advertised?	
What is the location?	
What is the telephone number?	

Activity 4
Write a conversation of a person bargaining with an owner of a clothes store about prices. The conversation should be at least twelve sentences long.

Activity 5
The following text is between two sisters discussing bargaining for goods. Read the text and summarize.

[illegible]: [illegible]
[illegible]: [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]: [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]: [illegible]

อรุณี: เหรอคะ แพงเหมือนกันนะคะ คุณสุดาแกซื้อไม่ถึง
รู้สึกว่าจะแค่ ๓๘๐ เท่านั้นศรีจันทร์: จริงหรือเปล่า เขาซื้อที่ไหนล่ะอรุณี: รู้สึกว่าจะเป็นแถวบางลำพูนะคะศรีจันทร์: แหม. .นึกว่าซื้อได้ถูกแล้วเชียวนะ เอาไปคืนก็ไม่ได้เสียด้วยสิ
อรุณี: คราวหน้าคงต้องไปดูหลาย ๆ แห่งก่อนตัดสินใจซื้อ

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